

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of constructing a reinforced soil arch comprising constructing an arch utilizing a combination of layers of compacted mineral soil and reinforcement in a manner that supports both the dead load of the structure and the live load imposed on the structure.
2. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein an archway form is installed for initially supporting the combination of compacted soil and reinforcement.
3. A method as claimed in claim 2 wherein the archway form is connected to the compacted soil and reinforcement.
4. A method as claimed in claim 3 wherein the archway form is connected to the compacted soil and reinforcement by wire mesh, bars, or connection members so that the archway form moves with the reinforced soil.
5. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the reinforcement consists of geosynthetic, plastic, metal, wood or like materials.
6. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the arch shape may be in the form of a reentrant arch, a vertical or horizontal ellipse, a pear or box-shaped structure, or a curved overpass or underpass structure.
7. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the form is installed on a temporary footing and the reinforced soil arch cooperates with the temporary footing.
8. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the form is installed on an elastic footing and the reinforced soil arch cooperates with the elastic footing.
9. A method as claimed in claim 1 where the soil reinforcement is connected to the form.
10. A method as claimed in claim 1 where the soil reinforcement is not connected to the form.

11. A reinforced soil arch constructed of a combination of soil and reinforcements.
12. A reinforced soil arch as claimed in claim 11 wherein the reinforcement consists of geosynthetic, plastic, metal, wood or like materials.
13. A reinforced soil arch as claimed in claim 11 wherein the arch shape may be in the form of a reentrant arch, a vertical or horizontal ellipse, a pear or box-shaped structure, or a curved overpass or underpass structure.
14. A reinforced soil arch as claimed in claim 11 wherein the form is installed on a temporary footing and the reinforced soil arch cooperates with the temporary footing.
15. A reinforced soil arch as claimed in claim 11 where the form is installed on an elastic footing.
16. A reinforced soil arch as claimed in claim 11 where the soil reinforcement is connected to the form.
17. A reinforced soil arch as claimed in claim 11 where the soil reinforcement is not connected to the form.
18. A reinforced soil arch as claimed in claim 11 wherein the soil and reinforcements are arranged as a combination of layers of compacted mineral soil and reinforcement.